

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

British Nation.

 Tuesday, April 5. 1709.

The INTRODUCTION Continued.

AND *what will this Babler say* now——, said the Wise Philosophers of Athens, who thought no Body could add to their Knowledge when St. Paul began to talk to them.

And yet, Gentlemen, afford me but the same Answer as they gave to that great Oracle the blessed Apostle, after he had Confounded their Wisdom with the Doctrine of the Resurrection——, *I make no Comparison of the Occasions*, but I say, afford me but the same An-

swer, and I am Content, *scil. We will bear thee again of this matter*, Acts XVII. 18, 32.

Why——, I'll tell you what I will say now.

1. I'll say that of you that you ought not to say of your selves, as the Wise Man said, *Let another Mans Mouth Praise thee, and not thy own*, it will come better from a Stranger, than from any of your own Country.

2. I'll say all the Good I can of you, and conceal all the Evil.

3. And

3. And yet I won't Flatter you, neither *it's my Opinion of Flattery*, none but Knaves use it; and none but Fools love it; In short, I'll say nothing for you, nor of you, *but what is True*.

4. If I meet with any of your Mistakes in my way ——— *and you will bear it*, I'll give you Hints how to mend them.

5. What is to your Advantage I'll set Abroad, and what is your Disadvantage I'll tell you that at Home, that you may Gain by the first, and Rectify the last.

But to come to the particulars ———, since my Tale is like to be long a Telling, and I am to speak of it by degrees, I shall therefore give you a short Scheme of the Design *before hand*, and tell you the general Heads I intend to Treat of, that the Reader being thus let into the Design, may know what to Expect.

1. I shall Treat of *Scotland in General*, and give some short Account of the Kingdom itself, what it *has been*, what it *now is*, and what it *may* rationally be expected to be.

2. Of the *People of Scotland*, their genious Temper and manner of Living, Behaviour Abroad, and at Home; As to the Antiquities and Originals of Things, or Persons, *I leave it to the Learned*, it is a Work too long for this short Paper: —, yet perhaps I may find Room,

as I go, to do Justice to some Families who I was oblig'd formerly to Neglect, either for want of Knowledge, want of Time, or both.

3. Of the *Trade of Scotland*; And under this Head I may speak, 1. Of the *Sea* ———, as Plantation Trade, *Spanish Trade*, *Dutch Trade*, and *French Trade*, of Exportation, and Importation, and at last, of Fishing, where I may enquire into that great Question which way the Fishery of *Scotland* may be Improved, and how unlikely all the Attempts hitherto made, or now a making, were, and are to bring that desirable thing to pass in this Nation.

2. Of the *Land*; And under this Head I may come to Treat of the Product of the Countrey, of Manufacture, and of Employing the Poor.

4. Of the *Government of Scotland* ———; And here not to meddle with the Differences about Church Government, Protestant Succession, Revolution, or any of these things: —, as what a Stranger has no Business with ———, I may yet show you some of the Inconveniencies you Labour under for want of an exact and more regular Administration of Petty Justice, and a due Regulation of the People, and with the
Dilem-

Dissemper, give you a hint of the Remedy——

5. *Of the Improvement of Land in Scotland*; And under this Head I shall tell you something about Enclosing, Planting, Grazing, Dary-keeping, and Ploughing; and I perswade my self, shall be able to say something in all these Convincing enough to satisfy the Gentlemen who are now the Landed Men in Scotland, that their Estates may be raised in Value one with another, at least a full half, and most of them double within the space of seven Years, and that with the small Expence of a tenth part of the Revenue to be laid out.

6. *Of Taxes in Scotland*, such as Customs, Excises, Cels, and the like; In which the Differences between past and present may come to be Examined, and the great Debate about Equalities and Proportions be Considered.

7. *Of the Navigation of Scotland*; Under which Head perhaps something may be offered for the Encouragement of Building, Fitting and Furnishing of Ships, and to prevent that intolerable Inconveniency, and Scandal to this Kingdom, of going out of the Nation to Buy Snips for your own Commerce, when you have wherewith to Build and Furnish them all of your own.

8 *Of Mechanick Arts in Scotland*, and the several Opportunities you have here to Improve in the most useful Works of all sorts of Metals, Inventions for Improvement, Engineering, Surveying, Building, and all sorts of Mathematical assistances to Trade, by Mills, Engines, Water, Wind, &c. to shorten Labour, encrease the Advantages of Commerce and the Conveniencies of Living.

9. *Of Learning in Scotland*; And here I may do my self the Honour to say a Word to the Men of Letters, how they shall with more Advantage revive the Reputation, as well as enlarge the Extent of Literature in Scotland; and under this Head I may speak something of a general Correspondence of Learned Men throughout the World, one with another, of a general Character, that may speak all Languages, or at least supply the want of them; Of Academick Learning——, and the Necessity and Usefulness of Polite Conversation to finish a Scholar——; Of Education of Youth, and the Disasters which attend it, and of that great and general Defect in some Academies, where the Students are taught the Perfection of all Languages *but their own*——, and have the Honour, together

together with the Perfection of other Languages, to be very Ignorant in their Mother Tongue.

10. *Of Conversation in Scotland*, & particularly here I may do you that Justice, to tell a Neighbouring Nation what they ought to come hither to School for, I mean, that general & remarkable Accomplishment of a Gentleman *Civility to Strangers* —.

11. *Of Military Affairs in Scotland*, and here I shall have room to Consult History, common Fame, Experience, and the Testimony of Nations, to the Glory of this Kingdom, in Reviving the Actions of your brave Ancestors in the World, and set some of them before you, both for your Honour, and for your Imitation.

12. *Of Religion*. — and here I shall say — *I know not what*, till I come to it —

I do not say this is a perfect Synopsis of this Work, or a complete Draught of the Design — but when I have gone thro' all these, I'll be able to tell you what I shall say next; Or if I have nothing to say, neither for your Advantage, or your Diversion, I'll let you know I have one part of a Wife Man about me, if I have

no other, viz. To hold my Tongue when I can say nothing to the Purpose.

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